



## Monroe County Health Department

Monroe County, Indiana

Health Department	Futures Family Planning Clinic	Public Health Clinic
119 W. 7th Street (812) 349-2543	119 W. 7th Street (812) 349-7343	333 E. Miller Drive (812) 353-3244

### PUBLIC HEALTH REGULATION AND ORDER EFFECTIVE AUGUST 5, 2021 at 8:00 AM

PURSUANT TO STATE AND LOCAL LAW, INCLUDING INDIANA CODE § 16-20-1 et seq.

On August 3, 2021, the Monroe County Board of Health ("Board") met with Monroe County Health Officer, Dr. Thomas W. Sharp, and staff from the Monroe County Health Department ("Department") to discuss the renewal of orders and regulations regarding the Novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19").

Based, in large part, on metrics, data, and information provided to the Board on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, by Penny Caudill, Administrator for the Department, and the fact that Monroe County continues to see increased cases of COVID-19 and, as of July 29, 2021, was in the State of Indiana's ("State" or "Indiana") advisory category of "yellow", per State statistics, the Board voted to approve this Public Health Regulation and Order ("Order"). Due to mutations of the COVID-19 virus and concern about how COVID variants are affecting Indiana and Monroe County residents, Dr. Sharp and the Board recommend renewing a mask requirement in Monroe County. The Board took into consideration public comment and recommendations from members of the public in making its decision. The Board also heard from members of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners, who must approve this Order, and took their comments and recommendations into consideration.

No other regulations, other than a requirement to wear masks in indoor, public places, will be put in effect at this time. The Board will revisit its decisions at subsequent meetings and may choose to amend this Order.

**Effective Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 8:00 AM, the following shall apply in Monroe County:**

1. Face Covering Requirement: Unless an exception as stated in Paragraph 2, below, applies, anytime Monroe County is in the State of Indiana's yellow, orange, or red advisory category, based on State of Indiana metrics, ALL individuals must wear a face shield, face covering, or mask (collectively referred to, hereinafter, as "face covering") over their nose and mouth when in an indoor public place and shall, at all times, follow current CDC guidelines in every situation. *While a face shield is made of a harder, plastic-like material, an acceptable face covering or mask under this Order means a covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material that covers the nose and mouth and surrounding areas of the lower face.* Persons unable to pay for a face covering should contact the Monroe County Health Department, the Office of Emergency





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Management, or the Office of the Monroe County Commissioners and one will be supplied at no cost. **This face covering requirement generally applies in all situations below, unless specifically and explicitly exempted below.**

2. **Exceptions:** This requirement does not apply to the following exceptions provided they are factually and legitimately applicable to an individual:
  - a. Children who are two (2) years of age or younger.
  - b. Individuals who are hearing or speaking impaired and for whom a face covering is an obstacle to communication.
  - c. Individuals who are unable to wear a face covering for a documented physical, medical, or health-related reason.
  - d. Individuals in a hospital, doctor's office, dentist's office, or other health care facility, in circumstances where wearing a face covering would be an impediment to receiving proper care, as designated by the healthcare provider.
  - e. Individuals who are alone in a room in a public building, such as an office, or in a work-space and physically distanced from all other co-workers, or are making a public presentation and are able to maintain a minimum of six (6)-feet distance away from all other persons. If a person making a public presentation may not physically distance, they must wear a face covering.
  - f. Individuals for whom wearing a face covering would present a risk to their safety while at work, as determined by local, state, or federal workplace safety regulations.
  - g. Individuals who are incarcerated.
  - h. Individuals who are engaged in a form of indoor exercise that is incompatible with wearing a face covering, including swimming.
  - i. Individuals who are seated at a restaurant, bar, or other establishment that serves food and/or drink and who are actively eating and drinking. However, individuals entering and exiting restaurants or bars, or congregating in waiting areas or common areas of restaurants or bars (including bathrooms), must wear face coverings.
  - j. Bona fide emergency situations in which a person lacks the time or the means to put on a face covering before entering an indoor public space.
3. **Enforcement and Signage:** All businesses and public accommodations which are open to the public must ensure that all customers and/or visitors are complying with the face covering requirements of Paragraph 1 above. Clear signage indicating that this Order is in effect shall be placed by businesses and public accommodations at all their public entrances, so that members of the public are made aware of this Order.





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Businesses and public accommodations shall contact the Department if they are unaware of signage requirements, have specific questions, or are not able to secure proper signage on their own. Businesses or public accommodations, which fail to enforce compliance with face covering requirements in Paragraph 1 or any part of this Order, are subject to enforcement action, *up to and including closure*.

4. Recommended precautions: When individuals must interact with one another outside their own home, including at work, and at essential and non-essential businesses, they should observe the following precautions:
  - a. Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from other individuals who are not part of their own household;
  - b. Wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible, or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol when soap and water are not available;
  - c. Cover all coughs and sneezes with a tissue that can then be disposed;
  - d. Disinfect frequently used surfaces;
  - e. Avoid sharing food, drinks, and utensils;
  - f. Refrain from sharing office supplies and equipment (such as pens, staplers, and computer keyboards);
  - g. Frequently clean communal office equipment (such as printers and copiers);
  - h. Increase ventilation of indoor spaces, by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning, as much as possible;
  - i. Hold all necessary meetings by telephone or videoconference whenever possible; and
  - j. Refrain from shaking hands or engaging in other physical contact with the hands or face of another person.
5. Schools: For academic and extra-curricular activities, all K-12 schools in Monroe County shall follow the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), and the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH). It is recommended that Monroe County schools consult with the Monroe County Health Department, regarding best practices based on current, local conditions. Schools may adopt rules or regulations consistent with these requirements. Nothing in this paragraph is intended to or does alter or modify any state or federal law requirements imposed upon or authority provided to schools.





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6. Compliance: Violations of this Regulation are subject to penalties as provided by the Monroe County Code, including but not limited to Chapters 305 and 115, and may be enforced by any local or state law enforcement agency or any agent authorized by the Monroe County Board of Health, Health Department, or Monroe County Board of Commissioners. Nothing in this Regulation gives individual residents the authority to intimidate or harass individuals who do not voluntarily comply or who are found out of compliance with this Regulation.
7. Expiration: This Order shall expire on September 30, 2021 at 11:59 p.m., unless rescinded earlier or unless renewed and extended by the Board and approved by the Commissioners prior to that date and time. This Order shall automatically be rescinded when and if Monroe County's metrics, as shown and proven by the State of Indiana, indicate that Monroe County has fallen below 50 cases per 100,000 residents and is in the State of Indiana's "**blue**" category.
- Severability: It is the intent that this Order comply with all provisions of Indiana law. In the event that a court of competent jurisdiction finds that any term or clause in this Order is invalid, unenforceable, or illegal, the same will not have any impact on the other terms or clauses in this Order and shall not affect the valid provisions of this Order. Such term or clause may be revised to the extent required to render the Order enforceable and valid, according to the opinion of the Court.

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Dr. Thomas W. Sharp  
Monroe County Health Officer

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Celinda K. Leach  
President, Monroe County Board of Health

***Pursuant to Indiana Code 16-20-1-21.5, this Health Regulation and Order is, hereby, approved by the Monroe County Board of Commissioners, who serve as the legislative body for Monroe County.***





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“NAYS”

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Julie Thomas, President

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Julie Thomas, President

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Lee Jones, Vice President

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Lee Jones, Vice President

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Penny Githens, Commissioner

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ATTEST:

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Catherine Smith, Monroe County Auditor

